Adding & Subtracting Fractions (Common Denominators)

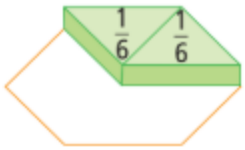
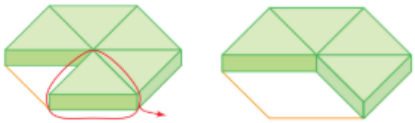
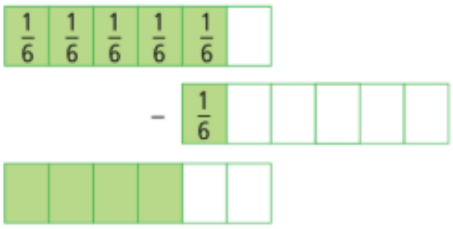
When adding or subtracting fractions, you must ensure that the denominators are the same (common). If they are, all you would need to do is add or subtract the numerators.

Addition: $\frac{A}{B} + \frac{C}{B} = \frac{A+C}{B}$ Example: $\frac{2}{7} + \frac{3}{7} = \frac{5}{7}$

Subtraction: $\frac{A}{B} - \frac{C}{B} = \frac{A-C}{B}$ Example: $\frac{9}{10} - \frac{5}{10} = \frac{4}{10}, or\ \frac{2}{5}$

It is important that once/if the denominators are the same, that they stay the same. Do NOT add or subtract the denominators.

You can use diagrams (models) to visualize your understanding of adding and subtracting of fractions with common denominators as well.

Example	**Pattern Blocks**	**Fraction Strips**
Addition: $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{2}{6}$		
Subtraction: $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{4}{6}$		

Either model will work if you need to illustrate your understanding, however, fraction strips will be the most versatile of the two choices.